AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 6 as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) A well screen comprising:

a filter layer;

a cylindrical outer stand-off layer around the filter layer, the cylindrical outer stand-off layer having a construction which is more rigid than a construction of the filter layer; and

a collapsible outer cover around the outer stand-off layer, said collapsible outer cover having a construction which is less rigid than the construction of the outer stand-off layer;

wherein the outer stand-off layer is arranged to space the collapsible outer cover from the filter layer and is arranged to resist collapse of the cover towards the filter layer.

2. (Previously presented) The well screen of claim 1 wherein the outer stand-off layer is a skeletal mesh.

3. (Previously presented) The well screen of claim 1 further comprising an inner stand-off layer covered by the filter layer.

4. (Previously presented) The well screen of claim 3 wherein the inner stand-off layer is a skeletal mesh.

5. (Previously presented) A well screen comprising:

a filter layer;

a cylindrical skeletal layer around the filter layer, the cylindrical outer stand-off layer having a construction which is more rigid than a construction of the filter layer; and

a collapsible outer cover around the skeletal layer, ~~,~~

said collapsible outer cover having a construction which is less rigid than the construction of the outer stand-off layer; and

wherein the skeletal layer is arranged to space the cover from the filter layer and provide structural resistance against collapse of the collapsible outer cover towards the filter layer.

6. (Currently amended) A method of forming a well screen having a standoff layer, the method comprising the steps of:

forming the stand-off layer by

wrapping a pre-fabricated mesh around at least one underlying member of the well screen; and

connecting together ~~the~~ longitudinal edges of the mesh; and wherein the method further comprises:

enclosing a filter layer with the stand-off layer, the stand-off layer having a construction which is more rigid than a construction of the filter layer; and

enclosing the stand-off layer with a collapsible outer cover, said collapsible outer cover having a construction which is less rigid than the construction of the ~~outer~~ stand-off layer.

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 6 wherein the stand-off layer is enclosed by a filter layer.

8. (cancelled)

9. (Previously presented) A well screen comprising:

a base pipe;

an inner stand-off layer;

a filter layer covering the inner stand-off layer;

a cylindrical outer standoff layer around the filter layer, the cylindrical outer stand-off layer having a construction which is more rigid than a construction of the filter layer; and

a collapsible outer cover around the outer stand-off layer, said collapsible outer cover having a construction which is less rigid than the construction of the outer stand-off layer;

the outer stand-off layer spacing the filter layer from the collapsible outer cover to provide structural resistance against the collapse of the collapsible outer cover towards the filter layer.

10. (Previously presented) A well screen comprising:

a filter layer;

a cylindrical outer stand-off layer which provides a cage for and is of greater rigidity than the filter layer; and

a collapsible outer cover around the outer stand-off layer, said collapsible outer cover having a construction which is less rigid than the construction of the outer stand-off layer;

the outer stand-off layer spacing the filter layer from the collapsible outer cover to provide structural resistance against the collapse of the collapsible outer cover towards the filter layer.

11. (Original) The well screen of claim 1, wherein the cylindrical outer stand-off layer is constructed from a mesh formed from orthogonally disposed rods welded together.

12. (Original) The well screen of claim 11, wherein the cylindrical outer stand-off layer is arranged to provide a distance of between 2.5 mm to 3 mm between the filter layer and the collapsible outer cover.

13. (Original) The well screen of claim 1, wherein the collapsible outer cover comprises a tube of perforated metal sheet.

14. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the collapsible outer cover comprises a tube of perforated metal sheet.